

Community Pharmacy Guidelines for Cleaning and Decontamination of Assessment Area Visited by Customers with Respiratory Symptoms or Suspected COVID-19

Important:

- Once the customer has left the premises it is advised that no other customer or staff should use the room or any other potentially contaminated areas until the appropriate level of cleaning has been carried out.
- Covid-19 virus may survive on inanimate or hard surfaces for up to 4 days, therefore all surfaces that have been in direct contact with the patient need to be cleaned and disinfected.
- All areas that have been in direct contact where the suspected COVID-19 patient has passed through also need to be cleaned and disinfected.

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Process

This is a 2-step process: 1) detergent clean, followed by 2) disinfection of surfaces with correct solution dilution of Sodium hypochlorite (bleach – 1,000 parts per million). Check manufacturer instructions.

Collect your equipment:

- Bucket of warm water and detergent
- Bleach solution in dripper bottle (20mls/1 litre water or 10mls/500mls water)
- Disposal cloths e.g. Chux cloths
- Yellow bio-hazard bags
- Gloves, and gown/apron, surgical mask and, if risk of splash-back, eye protection (even if you wear glasses). If you do not have suitable eye protection, to avoid risk of splash-back, use impregnated cloths to clean.
- Don PPE as per CDHB instructions.
- Wipe over surface with detergent and water.
- Dispose of cloths in yellow bio-hazard bag in room.
- Then disinfect area and equipment with bleach solution and allow to dry.
- Ensure nozzle on bleach solution bottle is directed at “squirt” not “spray” to avoid the spread of any potential pathogens.
- Remove PPE as per CDHB instructions.
- Dispose of cloths and PPE in yellow bio-hazard bag and clean hands.
- Put on fresh gloves, empty out used cleaning solutions, rinse with clean water, wipe inside and outside of bucket with bleach solution and allow to dry.
- Remove gloves and remember to perform hand hygiene.

Waste Disposal

- Place all used PPE and cloths in a yellow biohazard bag.
- Note: When full seal secure with a cable tie and arrange collection and replacement bags through InterWaste 021 957 196